

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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-----003878 271224Z /23

P 271111Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2232

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 9063

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: ESTIMATE OF LAND CAMP REFUGEES POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE
FOR FUTURE US PROGRAMS

REF: A) STATE 54108; B) BANGKOK 6810; C) STATE 59190

1. SUMMARY: WE ESTIMATE THAT 27,210 REFUGEES WOULD BE CANDIDATES DURING 1978 FOR A FUTURE PROGRAM USING IPP-77 CRITERIA. (THE DEPARTURE OF THESE INDIVIDUALS DURING 1978 WOULD OBVIOUSLY CREATE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF CATEGORY I REFUGEES IN THAILAND FOR FUTURE YEARS). FOR FURTHER REFINEMENT, WE HAVE BROKEN DOWN POTENTIAL CATEGORY III CANDIDATES AMONG THOSE OF MEDIUM AND LOW ELIGIBILITY (THOSE OF HIGH ELIGIBILITY HAVE ALREADY BEEN DESIGNATED UNDER IPP-77). IF THOSE OF LOW ELIGIBILITY WERE ELIMINATED, THE NUMBER WOULD DEOP BY 11,930, AND THE TOTAL WOULD BE 15,280 RATHER THAN 27,210. OTHER VARIABLES INCLUDE 300 REFUGEES CURRENTLY INELIGIBLE BECAUSE THE PRINCIPAL APPLICANT'S ANCHOR RELATIVE IN THE UNITED STATES ENTERED FRAUDULENTLY, AND 12,460 REFUGEES WHOSE PRINCIPAL APPLICANT IS A MARRIED SIBLING. EITHER GROUP MIGHT BECOME ELIGIBLE IF THE CRITERIA CHANGE. A FURTHER 500 REFUGEES MIGHT BECOME ELIGIBLE IF THE PRINCIPAL APPLICANT (AND SOMETIMES OTHERS IN THE FAMILY) OVERCOMES NARCOTICS ADDICTION,
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AND ANOTHER 500 IF THE PRINCIPAL APPLICANT STOPS PRAC-
TICING POLYGAMY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ANSWER TO REFS A AND C, WE ESTIMATE THAT 27,210 REFUGEES MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE FOR A FUTURE PROGRAM USING IPP-77 CRITERIA. A SUMMARY OF OUR ESTIMATE FOLLOWS:

	CAT1	CAT11	CAT111	CAT IV	TOTAL	
A ELIGIBLE POST- AUGUST II CAMP ARRIVALS		600	160	3440	30	4230

B CATEGORY I AND IV ELIGIBILITY CONFERRED THRU IPP-77 APPROVED REFUGEES	3700	-	-	50	3750
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C RESIDUAL IPP-77 CAT III'S	-	-	19230	-	19230
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TOTAL	4300	160	22670	80	27210
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3. OUR IPP-77 PRESCREENING IDENTIFIED 22,212 REFUGEES ELIGIBLE UNDER CATEGORY III. THOSE WITH THE HIGHEST ELIGIBILITY COMPRISE THE 2,982 REFUGEES APPROVED UNDER IPP-77. IF A FUTURE PROGRAM INCLUDED ONLY THOSE WITH MEDIUM ELIGIBILITY, 7300 REFUGEES WOULD QUALIFY. THERE WOULD REMAIN 11,930 WITH LOW ELIGIBILITY. IF THOSE OF LOW ELIGIBILITY WERE ELIMINATED FROM CONSIDERATION, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES DURING 1978 WOULD BE 15,280.

4. WE ANTICIPATE THAT 1000 CAT III REFUGEES OF MEDIUM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ELIGIBILITY WILL ULTIMATELY BE APPROVED FOR IPP-77 TO FILL IN FOR RECOUPS. WE ESTIMATE THAT THERE MIGHT BE AN ADDITIONAL 1000 REFUGEES WITH HIGH ELIGIBILITY WHO EITHER WERE NOT PRESENTED TO INS OR CHOSE TO FOREGO ACCEPTANCE DURING IPP-77. IN ANY EVENT, THESE NUMBERS WOULD CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT, AND NOT AFFECT THE TOTALS.

5. SINCE AUGUST 1977 THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE OF 11,372 IN THE UNHCR-REPORTED POPULATION OF THE INLAND CAMPS. WE ESTIMATE THAT AN ADDITIONAL 2000 REFUGEES ARE BEING HELD IN DETENTION CENTERS AND LOCAL JAILS. WE BEGAN TO PRESCREEN BOTH GROUPS MARCH 20. IN THE ABSENCE OF REGISTRATION DATA, WE EXTRAPOLATED FROM THE NUMBER OF IPP-77 APPROVALS UNDER EACH CATEGORY, PLUS THE TOTAL OF ELIGIBLE CAT III'S NOT APPROVED UNDER IPP-77, IN ORDER TO ESTIMATE THE NUMBER WHO MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE AMONG POST-AUGUST 11 ARRIVALS. OUR EXTRAPOLATION FOLLOWS:

	CAT1	CAT11	CAT888	CAT IV	TOTAL
NO. APPROVED IPP-77	3838	1005	2982	175	8000

PERCENT OF TOTAL

PRESCREENED

(86,120) 4.46 1.17 3.46 .20 9.29

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE

IPP-77 CAT III'S - - 19140 - 19140

PERCENT OF TOTAL

PRESCREENED

(86,120) - - 22.23 - 22.23

TOTAL PERCENT APPROVED,

PLUS ADDIT. ELIGIBLE

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CAT III'S 4.45 1.17 25.69 .20 31.52

EXTRAPOLATION OF

ELIGIBLE CASES TO

POST-8/11 POPULATION

INCREASE

(13,372) 600 160 3440 30 4230

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6. OUR CATEGORY I AND II ESTIMATES ARE POSSIBLY LOW.

OUR IPP-77 PRESCREENING DATA INCLUDES POST-AUGUST 11

REFUGEES REGISTERED AT NONG KHAI BETWEEN AUGUST 11 AND

SEPTEMBER 20. DURING THIS LIMITED PERIOD, WE IDENTIFIED

124 POTENTIAL POST-AUGUST 11 CATEGORY I AND 67 CATEGORY II REFUGEES. IF OUR IPP-77 EXPERIENCE IS REPEATED, HOWEVER, THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE A SUBSTANTIAL FALLOUT AMONG THESE GROUPS. THE FALLOUT WOULD BRING THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE REFUGEES IN LINE WITH OUR EXTRAPOLATION.

7. WE TOOK A RANDOM SAMPLE OF 200 IPP-77 APPROVED CASES, TOTALING 865 REFUGEES, TO DETERMINED THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES WHO MIGHT RECEIVE FUTURE CATEGORY I AND IV ELIGIBILITY FROM THE 8000 REFUGEES APPROVED UNDER IPP-77. OUR SAMPLE WAS PROPORTIONAL TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF APPROVED IPP-77 CASES BY CATEGORIES, ETHNIC GROUPS, AND CAMPS. THESE 865 REFUGEES REPRESENTED 10.81 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL 8000 APPROVED REFUGEES. WE FOUND THAT, UNDER CATEGORY I CRITERIA, THIS GROUP WOULD CONFER ELIGIBILITY ON 3,700 REFUGEES; UNDER CATEGORY IV, 50 REFUGEES. OUR SAMPLE DETERMINED THAT IF MARRIED SIBLINGS WERE INCLUDED 7500 REFUGEES WOULD RECEIVE ELIGIBILITY. ADDITIONALLY, DURING IPP-77 PRESCREENING WE REGISTERED 4960 REFUGEES WHO WOULD NOT QUALIFY EXCEPT AS MARRIED SIBLINGS. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES WHOSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRINCIPAL APPLICANTS WOULD BE MARRIED SIBLINGS IS THUS 12,460.

8. APPROXIMATELY 300 REFUGEES WERE NOT PRESENTED TO INS DURING IPP-77 BECAUSE THEIR ANCHOR RELATIVES MISREPRESENTED THEMSELVES UNDER A PRIOR PROGRAM IN ORDER TO GAIN ENTRY INTO THE U.S. IF THESE REFUGEES WERE NOT EXCLUDED FROM FURTHER PROGRAMS, THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLES DURING 1978 WOULD INCREASE BY THAT FIGURE.

9. WE ESTIMATE THAT SOME 750 REFUGEES ALREADY APPROVED UNDER IPP-77 MIGHT ULTIMATELY BE REJECTED BECAUSE THE PRINCIPAL APPLICANT (AND SOMETIMES OTHERS IN THE FAMILY) CONSISTENTLY SMOKE OPIUM. IF TWO OUT OF THREE OF THESE REFUGEES COULD DETOXYFIFY THEMSELVES, 500 MIGHT BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR A FUTURE PROGRAM.

10. WE BELIVE THAT SOME 500 OF THE REFUGEES WHO WERE ELIGIBLE FOR IPP-77 BUT WERE REJECTED BECAUSE THEIR PRINCIPAL APPLICANT PRACTICED POLYGAMY, MIGHT BECOME ELIGIBLE UNDER A FUTURE PROGRAM BY DISCONTINUING THE PRACTICE.
WHITEHOUSE

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